

The Church That Is In New York

Church's Greatest Waste Is Its Drifting Members

Organizations Which Make Even the Most Timid Active
Workers, the Way to Stop Lost Motion and
Obtain Efficiency.

By CHARLES W. WELCH.

Before many more people are influenced to identify themselves with the church that is in New York those who are already associated with it in one way or another should be brought into a fuller understanding of the church's

I have been thinking of the content of that statement much of late, and following my discussion with this department last week of church efficiency programs, the matter of the individual treatment after he has been received into the church has given me no little concern. I am sure, too, it must be engrossing the attention of every churchman who would see his individual church brought to the point of greatest efficiency.

New Members Drift Away.

What becomes of the average newly received member in the average church in New York City? The average new member, I repeat, it has been my observation that many newly received members are allowed to drift around in the church without being made to feel that they are an indispensable part of the church's life. It has also been my observation that the vast majority of the people who have been received into the church and who have soon thereafter drifted away from it and out of the

current of its life have not been allowed to feel either that the church's message contained nothing of vital importance to them, or that there is no place in the church's organized life for their individual effort.

The old way of leaving it to newly received members voluntarily to identify themselves with the other members of the individual church's varied organizations seems to have failed most significantly in identifying every member with some phase of the church's organization, which it seems to me, is indispensable in developing religious and spiritual capacities in men and women.

What then is the remedy?

The church, with the majority of its members not associated with its activities,

accepts from such lost motion.

Every member in his place and every place

efficiently filled by some member should be the slogan of a church seeking efficient organization. This ideal is impossible of attainment without a church organization that includes within its radius every individual member, whether recently received or having been a part of the church's life for many years.

Societies to Include All.

I have been asked to suggest the details of such an organization. Such a church has room for nothing other than immaterial, but none would include all of the young people, another would include the women, and the third would be composed of the adult male part of the parish. They might be called the Young People's Association, the Women's Association and the Men's Association.

These three organizations would include automatically all the members and adherents of the individual church adapting the plan of organization.

With the cooperation of a representative organization committee, could assign to one of these organizations every member and attendant of his parish. The thought to be borne constantly in mind is that the church, through these three organizations, is seeking to bring the most obscure, shrinking and timid adherent into the heart of the church's life. To do this in the average church such an organization I have suggested is absolutely essential.

Each of these organizations might be divided into four different committees, and the four committees in each organization would correspond with the four committees in each of the other two associations. For instance, the four committees might be designated as the missions, the strangers, the social committee, the strangers and visitation committee, and the social committee, and assigned to each of these committees the separate organizations could be assigned the work which would naturally fall to the people for whom they are especially appointed.

SERMON TOPICS TO-MORROW.

Baptist.

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Broadway and 59th Street.

Rev. C. H. PARKHURST, D. D., Pastor.

11 A. M.—"THE OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHRISTIAN TO GROW."

8 A. M.—"ON THE EDGE OF SUICIDE; OR, WHAT MUST BE DONE TO BEAVED?"

FRIDAY NIGHT, 8 P. M.—"THE MEANING OF EACH BOOK."

OUTLOOK FOR HALDEMAN WILL GIVE THE MEANING OF EACH BOOK.

"THE OLD TESTAMENT AND HOW TO READ EACH BOOK UNDERSTANDING."

Strangers cordially invited.

Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesday evenings, 7 P. M.

REV. JOSEPH W. KEMP.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

11 A. M.—"THE MEANING OF EACH BOOK."

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REV. J. H. WELCH.

PARK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT 85TH STREET

THE REV. CHAS. W. WELCH, Minister.

SERVICES

Bible School 9:30 a. m.

Morning Worship 11 o'clock

Young People's Devotional Service 7:00 p. m.

Evening Worship 8 o'clock

Midweek Service, Wednesday 8 p. m.

AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL PEOPLE.

THE BRICK CHURCH

Fifth Avenue and Thirty-seventh Street.

REV. C. H. PARKHURST, D. D., Pastor.

11 A. M.—"THE OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHRISTIAN TO GROW."

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Wednesday evenings, 7 P. M.

REV. C. A. EATON, D. D., Pastor.

ALL ANGELS' CHURCH, WEST END AND SIXTH STREET.

REV. DAVID COHEN, D. D., Pastor.

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